

The Parish Magazine of St. Oswald's Church Croxley Green



February
and
March
2026





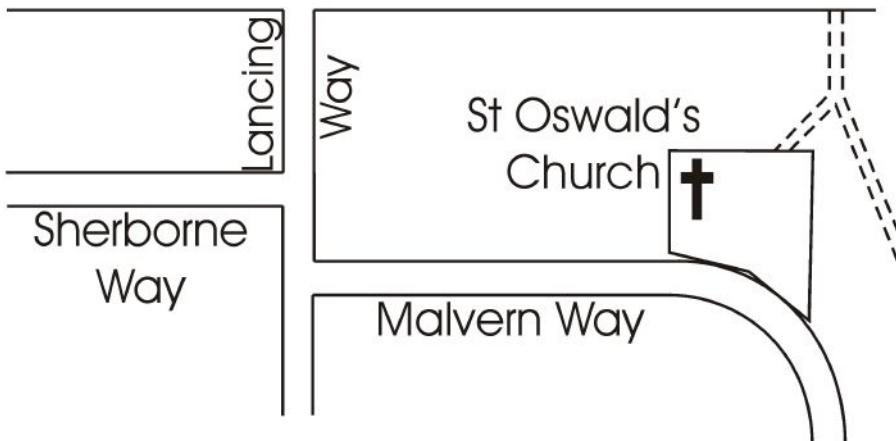
St Oswald's Church – who are we?

We are part of the Church of England in the St. Alban's Diocese.

website: stoswaldschurch.org.uk

Facebook: StOswaldsCG

Baldwins Lane



You will find us at Malvern Way, Croxley Green, WD3 3QL, just off Baldwins Lane.

There is a direct footpath link from Baldwins Lane into the rear of the church grounds, and car park access from Malvern Way.

The office entrance is at the back of the church hall.

Introducing Myself

A Letter from our Vicar designate Reverend Ritah Namakula



My name is Ritah, and I am looking forward to joining you all at St Oswald's. I have been asked to say a little about myself, which is never the easiest thing to do, but here goes.

I will be joining you from St Leonard's Church in Sandridge near St Albans, where I have spent time learning about ministry and how to serve within a community full of life, generosity, and faith. My time there has been formative. I have enjoyed ministry greatly and have been made aware of God's presence and guidance as I have learned what it means to walk alongside people in both joyful and challenging moments

of life.

This move is a family journey as I will not be arriving on my own. I will be joining you with my two children and my mother. My family

What's On and Dates for Diaries pp 18-19, Prayers p 25, Puzzles p 30, Contacts p 35

and I visited St Oswald's last year and we were made to feel genuinely welcome. That sense of warmth and hospitality has stayed with us. My hope is that we can continue to build on that spirit, so that everyone who comes through the doors of St Oswald's feels just as welcomed and valued.

Since my ordination, I have had the privilege of working with people of all ages. I have spent time with adults through Bible study groups, Lent and Advent courses, and more informal gatherings such as tea parties, where conversation and fellowship are just as important as learning. In addition, I have enjoyed working with adults in retirement homes those with learning difficulties and my ministry has grown through listening, presence, and shared moments of connection.

Over the years, I have also worked with children and young people ranging from babies and toddlers through to teenagers in secondary school. I have joined toddler groups, services, holiday clubs, and youth groups.



If there is a common thread running through all of this, it is simply that I enjoy working with people. I love meeting people where they are, listening to their stories, and sharing life together. I believe this reflects something very simple: I love all God's people, and I believe the church is called to be a place where everyone feels that they belong.

When I am not working, family life is very important to me. I love family holidays and spending time together, whether that is walking, talking, or simply being present with one another. I enjoy walking and reading. My family and I are avid followers of Formula One racing, something that often surprises people! As I prepare to join St Oswald's, my hope is that we can use this time God has given us to grow together as a community, one

where everyone feels welcome, where questions about faith can be asked freely and openly, and where people are supported and encouraged in their faith journey, whatever stage they may be at. I am looking forward to meeting you all, getting to know you, and becoming part of the life of this parish.

With every blessing

Ritah

Wednesday 20th May at
7pm:
Licensing our new Vicar!

We are pleased to announce that The Revd Ritah Namakula will be licensed on Wednesday 20th May at 7pm at St Oswald's. Further details as and when we get them, but please put this date in your diaries.



This year we raised over £1650 from St Oswald's Christmas Tree pledge scheme in aid of Mercy Ships.

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

(continued overleaf)

Volunteers on board their floating hospitals, the Africa Mercy and the Global Mercy, complete thousands of urgent operations. In addition, they work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics. Mercy Ships is currently working in Senegal, Guinea, Cameroon, Benin and Madagascar.

Here are two examples:

- 2-year old Armella in Madagascar suffered from a large lump behind her ear, about the size of a grapefruit. Thanks to the volunteers on Africa Mercy she benefited from free surgery to remove it and give her family new hope for the future.
- Yusif from Sierra Leone was 5 years old when he was bitten by a snake on his hand. Sadly he could not receive the right treatment and his arm became severely deformed and useless. This caused Yusif much pain and humiliation. Fortunately, when he was 11, surgeons on the Global Mercy were able to rescue Yusif's arm and give him back the use of his hand.



By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the model of Jesus by “bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor”, helping people of all faiths and none.

ST. OSWALD'S QUIZ EVENING

SAT 7th MARCH

7.00 for 7.30

TICKETS
£10.00 per person

Bring & Share Supper

(bring your own drink)

RAFFLE
(donations welcome)

All profits will go to
St. Oswald's Parish Project
"Renewal of the Church Hall Kitchen"

At St. Oswald's Hall WD3 3QL

A CROXLEY RAMBLER'S DIARY

Notes from the north Croxley woods - 20th January 2026



Winter sunshine in Harrocks wood

There has been plenty of rain recently and the sky was grey again as I approached Long Newlands Spring. The southerly air was fresh and cool. Underfoot, the combination of rain and clay made for a glutinous, slippery surface, so you had to take care. I made my way into Dell wood which was quiet apart from a few robins singing and one or two dog-walkers.

The Woodland Trust has been working hard in these woods to fell ash trees that are dying from ash dieback, so that they don't pose a danger to those who spend time here. The reality of the danger was made clear recently when a large ash tree on the edge of Dell wood fell across the neighbouring public footpath. Fortunately no-one was hurt.



Fallen ash tree, Dell wood

The latest evidence suggests that 80% of the UK's ash trees will succumb to the disease. But there is a prospect that the remaining disease-tolerant trees will allow the ash population to recover. Normally the Trust would not recommend removing trees from

woodlands so that there is the best chance for recovery. However, steps have to be taken where there are safety considerations.

There were many ash trees in Newlands Spring. That reflects the evolution of that part of the woods. In 1896 the Ordnance Survey shows this space as an open field bounded by Rousebarn Lane to the north and a thin woodland strip or spring to the south. However, the 1913 map shows that by then the field had become woodland. As gardeners will know, ash trees, along with holly, are some of the first to colonise an open space when they are allowed to do so.



New planting, Newlands Spring

Consequently, it is not surprising that the Woodland Trust had to fell a large number of trees in Newlands Spring which were close to the footpath. There are a number of sizeable log piles. But the main thing that I noticed when turning into the Spring was the large number of

newly planted saplings protected by light brown sleeves. The Trust's contractor has planted over 4,000 saplings from several native species.

However, felling trees that pose a safety risk is not always possible. The machinery required cannot get into the areas around the old quarries within Dell and Merlins woods. Consequently a number of paths have been closed with fencing for safety reasons.

I made my way from Newlands Spring through Merlins wood and down the hill into Harrocks wood. This is the time of year when not a great deal is going on in the natural world. As I walked towards Chandlers Cross there were fewer dog walkers and the southerly air meant that the ever-present hum of the M25 was quieter than usual. It was good to hear a song thrush and in the distance a green woodpecker. A couple of jays screeched at each other in the tree tops. Some of the hazel catkins were beginning to stretch out - an early sign of spring.

The main track on Harrocks wood was so wet and muddy that I tried an alternative path and came across a pile of rubbish that had been there for years. In my capacity as a volunteer for the Woodland Trust I picked up more litter - the remains of someone's drinking spree - from the car park in Rousebarn Lane.

That made me think of the possible impact on the woods from the proposed construction of 600 houses in the large field right next to the woods. There would be a large increase in footfall, in trampling of the woodland floor and littering. Moreover, people come with their cats and dogs which would have an impact on woodland wildlife too. More homes are needed but is this the right place? Three Rivers Councillors will have their say on 22nd January.



Brian Thomson



St Oswald's Parochial Church Council update January 2026

The PCC met on 27th January. Helen McAlpine brought us up to date on arrangements during the interregnum. We are very grateful to the priests who have presided at services and will continue to do so. There will be some occasions in February and March when priests are not available and we will use a service of the word instead of holy communion. Arrangements for the licensing of our new vicar, Rev'd Ritah Namakula, will be publicised nearer the time.

The PCC thanked Karen Pryse for her work in preparing the 2025 accounts. The outcome is a surplus of £20,000. That is welcome since the church has not been able to transfer funds into reserves for several years. The PCC agreed to allocate £7,000 to the church fund, £7,000 to the hall fund and £5,000 to the fund for renewing the church hall kitchen. Maintenance spending will be needed to renew the Jubilee room fire exit door and the hall radiators.

The PCC agreed to a proposal for a display of kneelers in the baptistry. Permission will now be sought from the Diocese. The PCC is keen to receive contributions towards the cost which is expected to be about £250.

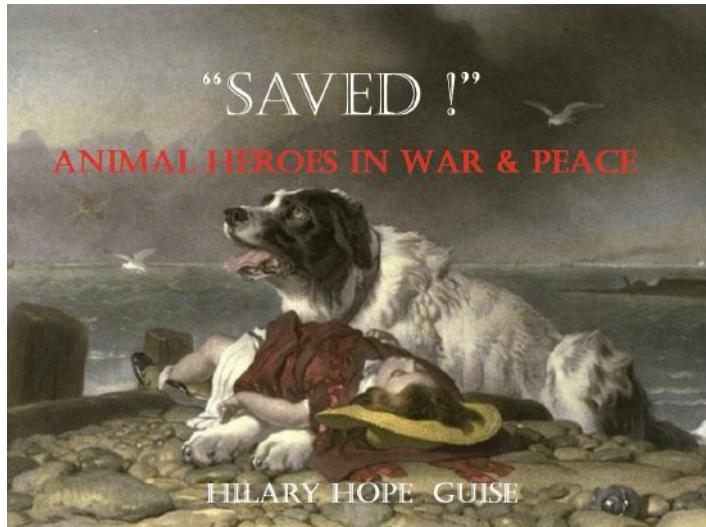
The PCC agreed to a 'Donations Policy' which sets out an explicit agreement between donors and the church about the use of donated items.

In addition to the events listed in the magazine 'dates for diaries', preliminary dates have been set for a Jumble Sale on 10th October and a Christmas Fair on 14th November.

Looking ahead to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 26th April, the church will elect two members of the Deanery Synod and at least four PCC members. Please consider whether you would like to be nominated.

Brian Thomson

Copies of PCC minutes are available on request to those on the Electoral Roll from the secretary, Brian Thomson, secretary@stoswaldschurch.org.uk



Christian Aid event: Animal Heroes in War & Peace

an entertaining talk about the role of animals in art by Hilary Hope Guise

St Mary's Hall, Rickmansworth,
Saturday 14th February 2026.
6.45pm for 7pm start.

talk with glass of wine followed by supper, raffle and art auction - £15 per ticket.

Tickets now available from Chris Gregory 07818 412869 cg@chrisgregory.uk



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY SARAH MULLALLY

The new Archbishop was confirmed in her role on 28th January. Here is a brief biography drawn from archbishopofcanterbury.org

Nursing

Sarah worked as a nurse in the National Health Service,

which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

Becoming the First Woman Bishop of London

While working as Chief Nursing Officer she trained for the ministry, was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields. Sarah left her Government post in 2004, which she described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made". In 2012 she became Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. On 12 May 2018, Sarah was installed as the Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the position.

Sarah sits in the House of Lords. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

As Bishop of London, Sarah has spoken regularly of enabling “every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ”. She led the Church of England’s Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages leading to the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples. She has served on the Church’s National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

Family Life

Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace. She has continued her interest in the health service as a non-executive director in two NHS Trusts. She is Chair of Christian Aid. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

You are invited to the Churches Together Lent Course

We will use Stephen Cottrell's book 'The Things He Carried. A Journey to the Cross. Meditations for Lent and Holy Week'

Thurs 19th February 'The Cross' at St Bede's, Baldwins Lane
Wed 25th February 'A Crown of Thorns' at All Saints' on the Green
Wed 4th March 'His Followers' Disappointments' at the Methodist Church, New Road

Wed 11th March 'The Hopes of God' at the Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane

Wed 18th March 'The Sins of the World' at St Bede's

Wed 25th March 'A Broken Heart' at All Saints'

Each session will be held twice, at 14.00 and 19.30.

ST OSWALD'S PARISH PROJECT 2026

This year's Parish Project raises funds for the renewal of the kitchen in the church hall.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is consulting the users of the hall about the kind of facilities that should be included and there is a preliminary design. The target for fund-raising is £25,000 to £30,000 and the fund currently stands at just over £10,000.

St Oswald's Church Hall is an important part of our church's contribution to our community. It is used by a wide range of organisations and programmes, for example:



those helping children to grow and have fun

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Kumon - which provides tuition in english and maths

the Childminders group

Hartbeeps sensory development classes for babies and toddlers

the National Childbirth Trust

fitness and dance programmes for adults

Zumba,

Vision2Dance,

Pilates fitness classes

various groups from the University of the 3rd Age (U3A)

Watford Community Orchestra



In addition the hall is often used for children's parties.

Of course, the church uses it too for Sunday School, Men's Breakfast and many events. Moreover, revenue from the hall is an important source of income for St Oswald's. In 2025 the hall contributed over £16,000 to the church's financial surplus.

Fund-raising events have been arranged including a Quiz evening on Saturday 7th March, Cafe O at the Revels on 20th June and a Summer Concert on Thursday 2nd July.



**The 2026 ARTS CAFÉ will
be held at St Oswald's on
Saturday 18th April.**

In the hall there will be watercolours, oil paintings, embroidery, textiles, cards, lace, jewellery, books and knitting with activities around our café offering homemade cakes.

In the church will be displays by our local schools and artists and a programme of music from a recorder ensemble, classical pianists, flute with accordion, mandolin with guitar, saxophone with vocalists and a cello, violin and harpsichord trio.

WHAT'S ON?



Services

Holy Communion on Sundays 8 am and 10 am, except first Sunday in the month when there is a Family Service at 10 am.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 11 am.

(During the current vacancy, as advertised in the fortnightly newsletter, some services may be Services of the Word rather than Holy Communion.)

Evening Prayer on the first Sunday at 4 pm

Sunday School meets each Sunday, except first Sunday in the month, at 10 am

Café O

Monday mornings (except Bank Holidays) in the church from 9.00 am to 12 noon



Mothers' UNION meets on the second Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm in the church.
Christian care for families

February 12th: A Stitch in Time, Three Rivers Museum Bunting - Pat Hamilton

March 12th: My Career part 1 Lin Welch

April 9th: to be confirmed

May 14th: Guitars & Songs - Stephen Martin

Men's Breakfast meets in the hall monthly on Saturdays at 7.45 am.

February 21st - USA - The Quest for Land, John de Braux

March 21st - Andrew Cox

April 11th - A Voyage Round My Father, Phil Brading

May 16th - A Dummies Guide to SCUBA Diving, Jon Cox

Donut Club for Year 7s

3.30 to 5pm first Friday each month in term time

Hot Dog Club for Year 8s

5.15 to 6.30pm first Friday each month in term time



CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February

Sat 14th - 6.45pm for 7pm start : **Christian Aid event: Animal Heroes in War & Peace** at St Mary's, Rickmansworth

Sun 15th - 10.00am **Spotlight service** on St Oswald's Parish Project - renewing the church hall kitchen

Ash Wednesday 18th - 11.00am and 8.00pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

Thurs 19th - **Lent Course** at St Bede's 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Wed 25th - **Lent Course** at All Saints' 2.00pm and 7.30pm

March

Wed 4th - **Lent Course** at New Road Methodist 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Sat 7th - **St Oswald's Quiz Evening**

Wed 11th - **Lent Course** at Baptist church 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Sun 15th - **Mothering Sunday**

Wed 18th - **Lent Course** at St Bede's 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Wed 25th - **Lent Course** at All Saints' 2.00pm and 7.30pm

HOLY WEEK

Sun 29th March - **Palm Sunday** 6.00pm service at All Saints', 'The Cross of Christ'

Mon 30th, Tues 31st March and Wed 1st April - 8.00pm short non-communion services

Maundy Thursday 2nd April - joint service at All Saints' 7.30pm

Good Friday 3rd April - service for the Last Hour 2.00pm

Easter Sunday 5th April - sunrise service on the Green

DATES FOR DIARIES

Sat 18th April - Christian Aid Arts Cafe at St Oswald's

Wed 20th May - 7.00pm Licensing of Revd Ritah Namakula

Sat 20th June - Cafe O at Croxley Revels

Thurs 2nd July - Summer Concert at St Oswald's

27th to 29th July - Holiday Club



Mrs Emma Cole,

Headteacher of Malvern Way Nursery and Infant School

Emma Cole died on 31st December. St Oswald's church was open for four afternoons, from 6th to 9th January, so that parents and children, staff, family and friends could remember her. The school sent the following message.

“It is with deep sadness that Malvern Way Nursery & Infant School announces the death of our Headteacher, **Mrs Cole**, who passed away peacefully on 31 December following a long battle with cancer.

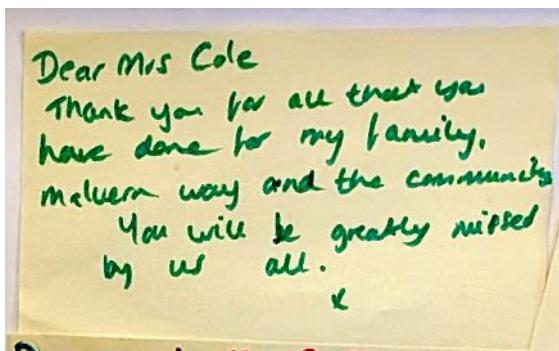
Mrs Cole led the school with exceptional dedication, compassion, and vision for more than 11 years. During her tenure, she championed a nurturing environment where every child is inspired to reach their full potential, both academically and personally. Her dedication and commitment to the school community, her colleagues, and the families she has worked closely with has left a lasting legacy.

Speaking on behalf of the Governors, Himesh Chavda (Chair) said:

“Mrs Cole was an inspiring leader whose warmth, integrity, and unwavering belief in young people shaped the heart of our school. She cared very deeply about this school and was incredibly proud of the dedication and talent of her team at Malvern Way. She will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.”

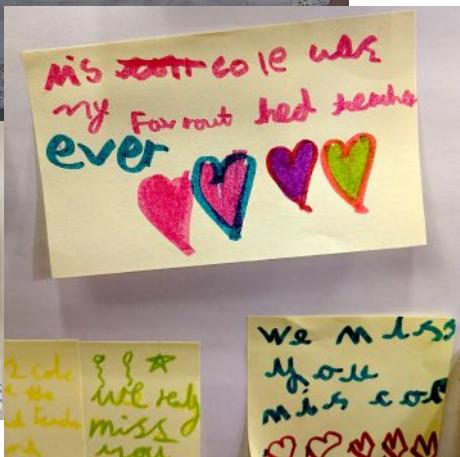
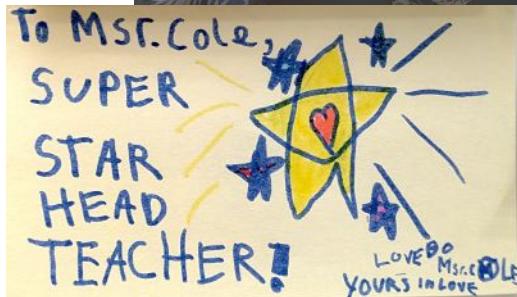
The school is supporting pupils, staff, and families during this difficult time, and arrangements are being made to celebrate Mrs Cole’s life and contribution to the school.

Our thoughts are with Mrs Cole’s family and friends at this time.”



This was an emotional time for the community. There were well over 300 visitors of all ages to the church who came to pay their respects. Many candles were lit, messages were written and pictorial tributes were drawn. (continued overleaf)

Helen McAlpine collected the messages afterwards and the church has presented them to the school for them to use as part of their memorial to Emma Cole.



Loving Lord, as we give thanks for the life of Emma Cole, we pray for her colleagues at Malvern Way School and the entire school community as they seek to support each other at this sad time.

May they know your comforting presence with them and be strengthened by your Holy Spirit through the coming difficult days.

CROXLEY PARISH NURSE



Contact Details

Cathy Scarborough
croxleyparishnursecathy@gmail.com
07562 515791

Midday Meditative Song

Our friends at Companion Voices are inviting us to take a break in our day to immerse ourselves in the beautiful sound of their singing. Rest in songs of peace, of love, of all nature.

Venue: All Saints' Church, Croxley Green

Wednesday March 18th

Arrive around 11.50am,
take a seat and relax for 15-20 minutes from
midday.

Coffee and Tea will be served afterwards
for anyone wishing to stay.

HOMOEOPATHY



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Intercessions for each week

The following suggestions for prayer week by week are by no means exhaustive. They are intended as prompts to encourage our prayers for: the life of our church; the charities with which we are connected; the roads of our parish; the village and the wider community. Other suggestions for prayer may be found on the fortnightly pew sheet.



Sunday 1 to Saturday 7 February

Safeguarding Team and Pastoral Contact Group

Croxley Parish Nurse

Durrants Drive, Hastings Way, Lewes Way, Norwich Way

Churches Together in Croxley Green

Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 February

Uniformed organisations – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Christian Aid

Merchant Taylors Place, Appleby Drive, Gloucester Court, Hertford Cl.

Our local doctors' surgery

Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 February

Parish Magazine

Watford Schools Trust

Dover Way, Ludlow Way, Richmond Way, Warwick Way

Dame Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church of

England and the Anglican Communion

Sunday 22 to Saturday 28 February

Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC

The Children's Society

Canterbury Way, Gade Bank, Links Way, Rousebarn Lane

Our local shops and businesses

Sunday 1 to Saturday 7 March

Baptism preparation and follow-up

USPG

Dorrofield Close, Hazelwood Rd, Mayfare, Sansom Close, Watford Rd

Our local schools

Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 March

Café O

Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership

Beechcroft Ave, Oakleigh Drive, Sycamore App, Sycamore Road,

Valley Walk

All Saints' Church

Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 March

Prayer Fellowship

A Rocha

Byewaters, Evensyde, Basildon Close, Gill Close, Heckford Close,

Longmans Close

Parliament and our MP Gagan Mohindra

Sunday 22 to Saturday 28 March

Sunday School

Alternatives

Girton Way, Malvern Way, Sherborne Way, Winchester Way

Shaftesbury Court



Sunday 29 March to Saturday 4 April

Our Mission Action Plan

Bible Reading Fellowship

Claremont Crescent, Lancing Way, Winton Crescent, Winton Drive

Churches Together in Croxley Green

Please remember in your prayers the sick, those who care for them, and those who mourn; our 10% mission giving recipients: USPG, CMS, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Church Army Marylebone Project, Alternatives Trust East London, Watford Schools Trust, A Rocha, Croxley Parish Nurse and the Trinity Project.



Pray for those who mourn for
Olwyn Dunderdale - 1934 to 2026
Helen Fawcett - 1980 to 2025
may they rest in peace

'Love is patient, love is kind....Love never fails.'
1 Corinthians chapter 13



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Uxbridge Road	Croxley Green
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**51 Lower Rd.
Chorleywood
HERTS WD3 5LG
01923 286102**

ST OSWALD'S REMEMBRANCE BOOK

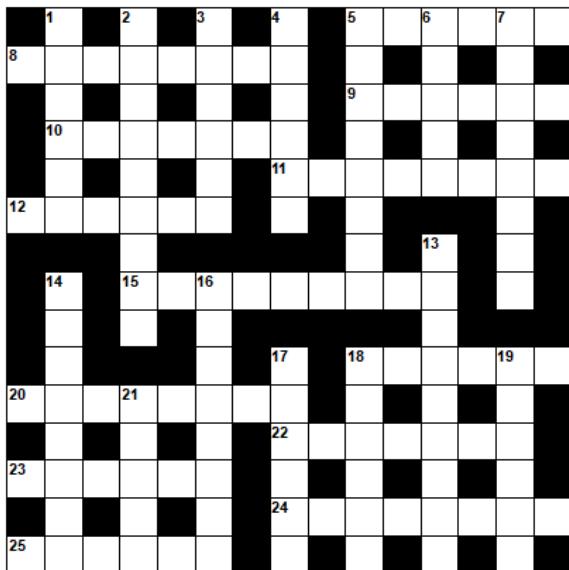
FEBRUARY

Ethel May SPRATLING - 17th Jan 1899 to 2nd Feb 1994
Dorothy Mildred JEFFERY ~ 21st May 1905 to 4th Feb 1996
Catherine Annie CHILD - 2nd Nov 1913 to 4th Feb 2015
Jean Constance POPE - 19th Jan 1932 to 8th Feb 2014
Derek Geoffrey "Geoff" WILLIAMSON ~ 14th Oct 1955 to 10th Feb 2011
Ivy Winifred PERCEVAL ~ 14th April 1905 to 14th Feb 1995
Doris May HUGHES ~ 8th Jan 1903 to 15th Feb 1990
Violet Maude MADGWICK ~ 23rd Sept 1903 to 22nd Feb 1979
Michael John HOWARD - 30th Aug 1961 to 23rd Feb 2025
James (Jim) HUGHES - 15th Sept 1930 to 25th Feb 2022
Basil William Harvey BODEN - 2nd July 1924 to 28th Feb 2013

MARCH

Robert George BALDWIN ~ 6th May 1900 to 1st March 1991
John Michael MANNING ~ 16th Aug 1937 to 7th March 2000
Cecil CASTLE ~ 20th June 1903 to 8th March 1997
Bryan Guy HINDELL ~ 16th July 1937 to 8th March 2003
Jean Margaret CARPENTER ~ 27th Dec 1937 to 10th March 2012
Richard David DUNDERDALE ~ 16th April 1930 to 11th March 2006
Jack Percy BISHOP - 6th May 1924 to 12th March 2013
John James DAVIES ~ 10th May 1925 to 23rd March 2009
Raymond CRONEY ~ 6th April 1921 to 24th March 2007
Evelyn Winifred WARMAN ~ 12th Jan 1910 to 26th March 2010
George Charles WILKINS ~ 14th Nov 1903 to 26th March 1961
Kathleen Grace HUGGINS ~ 16th March 1915 to 27th March 2009
Käthe E. M. G. TILLEY ~ 28th Aug 1933 to 28th March 2010
Fiona MacDONALD ~ 3rd Jan 1929 to 31st March 2012

Cryptic Crossword by Richard Lee



office (6)

24 Is here to rewrite
speculative ideas (8)

25 Require the French
sewer (6)

Down

1 Water wall next to a
swan to make moist (6)

2 Paying heed making
tentative arrangement (9)

3 Fifty one pounds,
colloquially, in flowing form (6)

Across

5 Humiliate average following of
French (6)

8 Distant object is an obsolete coin (8)

9 Strange traits for one with
creative abilities (6)

10 Supreme change to change for
granted (7)

11 Comic one becomes financially
viable (8)

12 Joined together in duet
arrangement (6)

15 True novel about one who offers
to undertake a job (9)

18 Short month with a poem to
break a cypher (6)

20 Carry out a state making a
voluntary gift (8)

22 Cowherd stirred a thick fish
soup (7)

23 Writing desk for an information

(6)

4 Geared in a way that concurred
(6)

5 Agile duo can produce an
exchange of opinions (8)

6 Leading men of the trade office
having a short maxim (5)

7 Beat of burden was unwell and
attacked violently (8)

13 Reproduce in a manner having
pre-defined actions (9)

14 Lose true variation having
determination (8)

16 Tie adult into scope for freedom
of action (8)

17 Make it nice to provoke (6)

18 Snored wildly displaying remotely
controlled flying machines (6)

19 Traded poorly and ran quickly
(6)

21 Males in the current era make a
change (5)

Puzzles by Richard Lee

AABBCC Puzzle

Each row, column and the two main diagonals of the 6 x 6 square has two A's, two B's and two C's in a random order. The clues should enable you to place all of these letters in their correct positions.

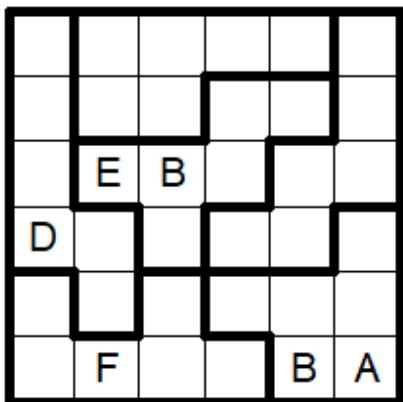
ACROSS CLUES

- 1 - neither A is immediately right of a C
- 2 - each B is immediately left of an A
- 6 - neither end square contains a B

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

DOWN CLUES

- 1 - the A's are all somewhere above the B's
- 2 - neither C is immediately below an A
- 3 - the B's are all somewhere above the A's
- 4 - neither end square contains a C
- 6 - the A's are all somewhere above the C's



Hexomino Sudoku Puzzle

There is one each of the letters A to F in every row, column and in each six-block Hexomino shape. Your task is to fit all the letters into the grid.



VALENTINE'S DAY QUIZ

by Bill Frost



1. Which country did St. Valentine originate from?
2. True or false: St. Valentine is the patron saint of numerous things, including beekeepers and travelers?
3. In which year did The Beatles release All You Need Is Love?
4. Which English king declared Valentine's Day a holiday in 1537?
5. In which U.S. city did the St. Valentine's Day Massacre happen on Feb. 14, 1929?
6. Cupid is the Roman counterpart to which Greek god?
7. In what romantic movie does Whoopi Goldberg play a psychic?
8. Which Greek goddess is associated with red roses?
9. Which British confectionary company is often credited with creating the first box of Valentine's Day chocolates?
10. Which ancient culture believed chocolate was a gift from the gods?
11. What year did Hallmark first start selling Valentine's Day cards; 1901, 1908 or 1913?
12. Which East Asian country has a tradition in which women give men chocolate on Valentine's Day?
13. Who wrote and directed the movie Love Actually in 2003?
14. What is the significance of the XOXO abbreviation on Valentine's Day cards?
15. Which country is credited with starting the tradition of exchanging love notes on Valentine's Day?



THE KITCHEN

CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

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AT THE KITCHEN, WE BAKE BEAUTIFUL
CAKES AND CUPCAKES
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CHRISTENINGS AND ALL OTHER
CELEBRATIONS.

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TO SUIT YOUR OCCASION AND BUDGET

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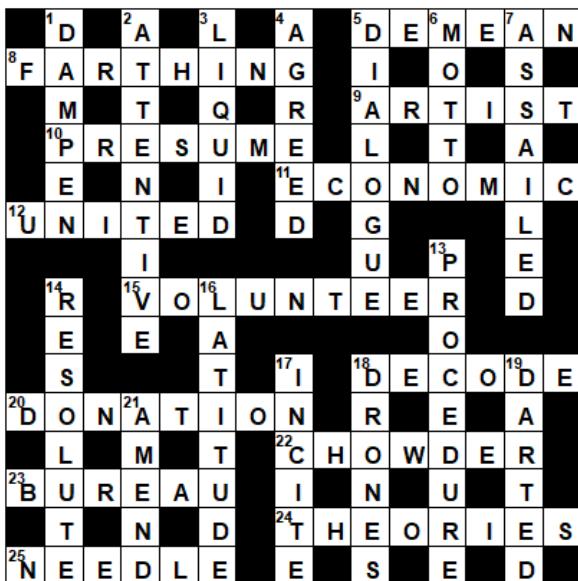
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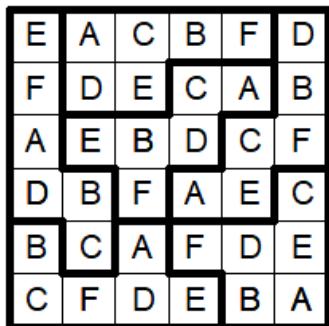
PHONE: 07912 847295

PUZZLE ANSWERS



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Italy.
2. True.
3. 1967.
4. Henry VIII.
5. Chicago.
6. Eros.
7. Ghost.
8. Aphrodite.
9. Cadbury.
10. The Aztecs.
11. 1913.
12. Japan.
13. Richard Curtis.
14. Hugs & kisses.
15. France.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	A	C	C	B	A	B
2	C	C	B	A	B	A
3	A	B	B	C	C	A
4	B	A	A	B	C	C
5	B	A	C	C	A	B
6	C	B	A	A	B	C

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Updated information on services and activities at St Oswald's will be posted on the church website www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk, the church's Facebook page and the fortnightly weekly email.

The next edition of the magazine will be published at the end of March 2026. Please send items for the next edition by Sunday 15 March 2026 to magazine@stoswaldschurch.org.uk

